

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6044

UNCLAS MOSCOW 15378

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ENRG, UR, US

SUBJECT: ENERGY AGREEMENT: JOINT COMMITTEE SESSION/MEETING GAS EXPERT
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REF: ROOT/MATSEV MEETING OF OCTOBER 7, 1975

1. SCIOFF MET OCTOBER 23 WITH MALTSEV OF MINPOWER AND WITH REPRESENTATIVES MINOIL, MINCOAL, MINGAS, TO DISCUSS QUESTIONS RAISED DURING REF MEETING CONCERNING PLANNING FOR JOINT COMMITTEE SESSION.

2. MALTSEV EXPRESSED REGRET THAT NO REPLY YET AVAILABLE FROM MINPOWER RE SUGGESTED DATES FOR JOINT COMMITTEE SESSION. DELY REPORTEDLY DUE MINISTER NEPOROZHNIY'S CONTINUING ILLNESS WHICH HAS NOT YET PERMITTED HIM RETURN TO WORK. MALTSEV DID STATE, HOWEVER, THAT NEPOROZHNIY HAD TELEPHONED TO INQUIRE IF MALTSEV HAD BEEN INFORMED RE DATES ZARB WOULD BE AVAILABLE TO BE IN MOSCOW. MALTSEV STRONGLY IMPLIED THAT, DESPITE ILLNESS, NEPOROZHNIY COULD OFFER POSITIVE RESPONSE TO DECEMBER 7-21 DATES AS SOON AS HE IS ASSURED THAT ZARB COULD ARRANGE BE IN MOSCOW THEN.

(MALTSEV ADDED THAT NEPOROZHNIY "NOT SERIOUSLY ILL" AND EXPECTED RETURN TO WORK IN "THREE OR FOUR DAYS.")

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2. GULYAYEV OF MINISTRY OF GAS INDUSTRY STATED THAT MINGAS ALSO HOPES JOINT COMMITTEE SESSION WILL TAKE PLACE DECEMBER 7-21 AND WISHES SCHEDULE MEETING GAS EXPERTS IN MOSCOW IMMEDIATELY PRECEDING JOINT COMMITTEE SESSION. HE ASSURED SCIOFF THAT SUFFICIENT TIME REMAINS FOR MINGAS TO MAKE ARRANGEMENTS FOR MEETING, PROVIDED US GAS EXPERTS WOULD AGREE TO SOMEWHAT ABBRIVIATED PROGRAM. GULYAYEV STATED THAT MINGAS WILL PROVIDE PROGRAM FOR GAS EXPERTS' MEETING BY NOVEMBER 1, IF INFORMED THAT US GAS EXPERTS AGREEABLE TO SUGGESTED TIMING. GULYAYEV ADDED THAT BOTH US AND SOVIET DELEGATIONS WOULD HAVE TO BE FULLY EMPOWERED TO AGREE TO JOINT PROGRAM, FOR MEETING TO BE OF VALUE.

3. MALTSEV REQUESTED THAT MINPOWER BE INFORMED ASAP OF
(1) ACCEPTABILITY TO US PART JOINT COMMITTEE OF DECEMBER 7-21 DATES FOR J.C. SESSION.
(2) APPROXIMATE DATES ZARB COULD PLAN TO IN MOSCOW DURING DECEMBER 7-21 PERIOD,
(3) COMPOSITION US DELEGATION TO JOINT COMMITTEE SESSION,
(4) NOTIFICATION OF US AGREEMENT TO PROPOSED SCHEDULING MEETING GAS EXPERTS.

4. MATSEV STATED FIMRLY THAT MINPOWER WOULD ATTEMPT PROVIDE TO EMBASSY DRAFT PROTOCOL BY NOVEMBER 1 AND WOULD GUARANTEE DRAFT PROTOCOL "BEFORE NOVEMBER HOLIDAYS AT LATEST" (I.E., BY NOVEMBER 6) GULYAYEV REITERATED THAT MINGAS WILL PROVIDE EMBASSY WITH PROGRAM FOR GAS EXPERTS MEETING BY NOVEMBER 1.

5. EMBASSY WOULD APPRECIATE BEING INFORMED ASAP OF ACCEPTABILITY DECEMBER 7-21 DATES FOR JOINT COMMITTEE SESSION, AND OF ACCEPTABILITY SCHEDULING MEETING GAS EXPERTS IMMEDIATELY PRECEDING JOINT COMMITTEE SESSION, TO ENABLE EMBASSY ACTIVELY PURSUE MATTER WITH MINPOWER. PLEASE ADVISE.
MATLOCK

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